

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 06138 191505Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00

MC-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /058 W

----- 076484

R 191245Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4804

INFO DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6138

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT ESTC MASS YO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN AMERICAN FIREARMS

SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV POLICE HAVE INVITED STURM-RUGER TO PROVIDE US FIREARMS FOR TESTING WITH VIEW TO POSSIBLE PURCHASES AND JOINT PRODUCTION WITH YUGOSLAV FIRMS. FAVORABLE RECEPTION ENJOYED BY RUGER OFFICIAL AND INDICATIONS OF MILITARY INTEREST HAVE POTENTIAL POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR THESE WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

1. STEPHEN K. VOGEL, PRESIDENT OF STURM-RUGER EXPORT COMPANY INITIALLY VISITED EMBASSY ON NOV 4 TO ANNOUNCE HIS PRESENCE AND TO DESCRIBE HIS COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, RUGER HAS MADE SEVERAL SALES OF COMMERCIAL FIREARMS THROUGH THE YUGOSLAV IMPORTER, UNIVERZAL. NOW UNIVERZAL HAS INVITED RUGER TO COME TO YUGOSLAVIA, WITH SOME SAMPLES OF REVOLVERS AND ASSAULT RIFLES, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PURCHASES BY THE YUGOSLAV POLICE. AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS, MR. VOGEL RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY NOV 6 TO INFORM US OF DEVELOPMENTS AND ASK ASSISTANCE.

2. MR. VOGEL HAD SOME LENGTHY MEETINGS AT THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE IN CIVILIAN DRESS AND FEW WERE IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR POSITION. AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS WERE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICE AND A MR. JOVAN POPOVIC--  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELGRA 06138 191505Z

A MATERIALS (INCLUDING FIREARMS) EXPERT. OTHER SESSIONS INCLUDED

UNIVERZAL, THE FOREIGN TRADE FIRM, AND ZAVODI "CRVENA ZASTAVA," ONE OF WHOSE DIVISIONS MAKES FIREARMS. THE MEETINGS FOCUSED ON FIVE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT: POLICE REVOLVERS, SILENCED WEAPONS, .223 CAL (5.56 MM) ASSAULT RIFLES, SPECIALIZED AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND POLICE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT.

3. POLICE REVOLVERS: THE YUGOSLAVS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN CO-PRODUCTION OF RUGER DOUBLE-ACTION POLICE REVOLVERS. THE VOLUME OF PRODUCTION MENTIONED WAS 3000 TO 5000 ANNUALLY (ECONOMICAL FOR AN ASSEMBLY OPERATION, PER VOGEL) AND THE PROPOSED PARTNER WAS ZAVODI CRVENA ZASTAVA. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO RUGER AND THE YUGOSLAVS ARE SENDING A GROUP FROM UNIVERZAL AND ZASTAVA TO THE U.S. IN DECEMBER TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER. VOGEL COMMENTED THAT ZASTAVA SEEMED TO BE A "SELECTED" PARTNER AND SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT ABOUT THE DEAL.

4. SILENCED WEAPONS: THE YUGOSLAVS WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN SILENCED WEAPONS. THESE ARE TYPES USED BY POLICE AND SECURITY UNITS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTION OF DIGNITARIES. THEY HAVE REQUESTED THAT RUGER PROVIDE SOME WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FOR TESTING PURPOSES. THESE ARE:

(A) 2 RUGER M 77 BOLT ACTION RIFLES WITH TELESCOPE AND SILENCER AND 500 ROUNDS OF TEST AMMUNITION (CALIBER CAN BE 30/06 OR .308).

(B) 2 RUGER 10/22 SEMI-AUTOMATIC .22 CALIBER RIFLES WITH TELESCOPE AND SILENCER AND 500 ROUNDS OF TEST AMMUNITION.

(C) 5 RUGER MK 1 SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS WITH SILENCERS AND 2500 ROUNDS OF TEST AMMUNITION.

(D) 6 RUGER 10/22 SEMI-AUTOMATIC, SHORT BARRLED, .22 CALIBER RIFLES WITH SILENCERS AND 3000 ROUNDS OF TEST AMMUNITION. THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD LIKE THESE WEAPONS "IN-HOUSE" BY DEC 20TH. VOGEL HAS REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY ASSIST IN EXPEDITING THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR THESE WEAPONS.

5. OTHER WEAPONS FOR WHICH THE YUGOSLAVS ARE PLACING ORDERS ARE:

(A) 1 RUGER 9 MM DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVER, PRESUMABLY FOR FURTHER TESTING.

(B) 150 RUGER DOUBLE-ACTION REVOLVERS (.38 SPECIAL CALIBER) WITH 150 S & W TYPE TEAR GAS LAUNCHERS AND APPROXIMATELY 15,000 ROUNDS OF LAUNCHING AMMUNITION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELGRA 06138 191505Z

(C) 1 SINGLE SHOT HUNTING RIFLE, WHICH THE POLICE WILL PRESENT TO MARSHAL TITO.

6. .223 CALIBER (5.56 MM) ASSAULT RIFLES: THE YUGOSLAVS ARE NOW TESTING TWO SAMPLES, ONE FULLY AUTOMATIC AND ONE "MINI-14" RUGER ASSAULT RIFLES. THEY HAVE MENTIONED TO VOGEL THAT THEY ARE ALSO TESTING OTHER SIMILAR WEAPONS INCLUDING A RUSSIAN, A CZECH, A GERMAN (HEZLER-COLT (SP.BL) AND A BELGIAN FN RIFLE--ALL IN .22

OR .223 CALIBER. THE TESTS ARE ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE, BUT THEY WOULD NOT INDICATE THE ANTICIPATED SIZE OF ANY POSSIBLE ORDER AND VOGEL GOT AN IMPRESSION THAT THE MILITARY WAS INTERESTED.

7. ELECTRONIC AND SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT: THE YUGOSLAV FIRM, UNIVERZAL, IMPLIED THAT THEY WERE SELECTED BY THE POLICE TO PROCURE A VARIETY OF EQUIPMENT. THE "SHOPPING LIST" SUPPOSEDLY INCLUDED THIRD GENERATION NIGHT VISION DEVICES, THERMAL VISION DEVICES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC OR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SUCH AS LASER LISTENING DEVICES, WALKIE-TALKIES, ETC. ALTHOUGH RUGER DOESN'T PRODUCE THIS EQUIPMENT THEY HAVE GOOD CONTACTS WITH US PRODUCERS. THEY OFTEN SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT SALES PROSPECTS WITH THESE PRODUCERS AND INTEND TO DO SO IN THIS CASE.

8. POLICE LABORATORY: THE YUGOSLAVS ARE BUILDING A NEW POLICE LABORATORY AND ARE LOOKING FOR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN SELECTING EQUIPMENT FOR IT. RUGER, AS A MEMBER OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AND A FREQUENT ADVISER IN SUCH MATTERS, PLANS TO ASSIST.

9. MR. VOGEL HAD A VERY FAVORABLE RECEPTION DURING HIS VISIT. HE ATTENDED A DINNER (INCLUDING WIVES) HOSTED BY AN APPARENTLY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL, PRESUMABLY FROM THE POLICE. (ALTHOUGH HE ASKED THREE TIMES IN DIFFERENT WAYS, HE WAS NEVER GIVEN HIS HOST'S NAME OR POSITION.) RUGER APPEARS TO HAVE A "FOOT IN THE DOOR" FOR SOME SUBSTANTIAL SALES. ALTHOUGH ALL DISCUSSIONS WERE ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE, IT APPEARED THAT MILITARY INTEREST WAS ALSO PRESENT. THIS INTEREST WOULD BE LOGICAL, GIVEN THE TENDENCY TO EQUIP BOTH SERVICES WITH COMPATIBLE EQUIPMENT IN MANY AREAS.

10. FROM THE VISIT, MR. VOGEL RECEIVED DEFINITE IMPRESSIONS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE ORIENTED TO BUYING WESTERN FIREARMS, DESPITE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BELGRA 06138 191505Z

FAVORABLE COMMERCIAL TERMS FROM THE EAST. IN FACT, ONE OF THE UNIVERZAL PEOPLE COMMENTED, "YOU CAN ACCEPT ONLY SO MANY BARGAINS BEFORE YOU FIND YOURSELF ORIENTED IN A DIRECTION YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO."

11. COMMENT: THUS ASIDE FROM COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS EMBASSY CONVINCED THERE ARE IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND POLICY REASONS FOR EXPEDITIOUS AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE APPLICATION. HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG SHARE CONCERN INDICATED HERE THAT YUGOSLAVIA NOT BE DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS FOR ARMS. DECISION BY YUGOSLAVS TO MOVE AWAY FROM EXCLUSIVE USE OF CALIBRE-WEAPONS COMPATIBLE WITH SOVIET EQUIPMENT WOULD BE STEP OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. HAVING LONG SINCE DETERMINED TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND VIABILITY OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE USG HAS IN PAST YEAR MOVED IN DIRECTION OF PROVIDING THE MILITARY WHEREWITHAL TO

YUGOSLAVIA TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE LIGHT ARMS STURM-RUGER PROPOSES TO SELL WOULD, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, FALL IN CATEGORY OF UNCLASSIFIED ARMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROVED FOR SALE TO YUGOSLAVIA. THAT, AND FACT THAT YUGOSLAVS SAY WEAPONS NEED TO PROTECT PRESIDENT TITO, OTHER MEMBERS OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, AND MANY FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE WHO REGULARLY VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, REINFORCE OUR BELIEF THAT APPROVAL OF THIS SALE IS CLEARLY IN US INTERESTS.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE YUGOSLAVS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WEAPONS IN PARA 4 DEC 20 FOR TESTING, ETC., EMBASSY RECOMMENDS EXPEDITIOUS ISSUANCE OF NECESSARY EXPORT LICENSES.  
SILBERMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, EXPORT LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BELGRA06138  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750403-0434  
**From:** BELGRADE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751130/aaaabacw.tel  
**Line Count:** 181  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN AMERICAN FIREARMS SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV POLICE HAVE INVITED STURM-RUGER TO PROVIDE US  
**TAGS:** EEWT, ESTC, MASS, PORS, PFOR, MILI, YO, US, STURM-RUGER  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006